Anti-Slavery Office,
58 New York, 14 June, 1859.

Dear Garrison,

On sitting down to write the notice of your life for the Cyclopaedia, after a careful consideration of the points which, by the rules of the work, I am allowed to touch, I find it necessary to interrogate you ~~upon~~ in regard to some things not embraced in the letter you were so kind as to write me some time since.

I. I want to know more about your childhood, previous to the time when your apprenticeship to Mr. Allen began. Did you not once try to be a shoemaker, and leave the occupation from strong distaste therefor? Of course I do not want minute particulars,

only leading facts.

II. Did you not write for the press, while an apprentice? If so, for what papers and upon what themes? I remember hearing Isaac Knapp say that some articles from your pen were even attributed to Father Ames. Rest frankly, dear Garrison, about this. You will not be held in any way responsible for what I write, while all your friends will expect my sketch to be complete.

III. I want to know how, & when you first became acquainted with Benj. Lundy and got interested in his movements. Tell me precisely when you went to Baltimore, and what were the precise points of difference between you and him. (I suppose I could state this correctly, but I would like to have you define the difference.)

IV. When and where did you first

distinctly propound the doctrine of
Immediate Emancipation?

V. Can you send me (in Liberator
bundle) a report of your Balt. trial,
or will you give me the leading
facts a little more particularly than
in your former letter? I want to know
what were the libelous words, who
was on the bench, and the names of
the counsel on both sides; also the
precise verdict and sentence.

VI. Tell me any interesting facts
respecting your imprisonment — how
you were treated — the state of public
sentiment in Baltimore respecting you — the amount
of sympathy manifested by citizens and
whether of the North or South.

VII. Is there any truth in the story
I have somewhere heard, that Henry Clay
instituted inquiries respecting you, with
a view to pay your fine and effect your
release, and that he was anticipated

by Mr. Tappan?

VIII. Did you not issue a prospectus for the Liberator, to be published in Washington? If so, tell me how it happened that your plan was changed.

IX. Had you any promise of support from any quarter when you began the Liberator? And how long did you and friend Knapp live in your printing-office and prepare your own food, for lack of means to take lodgings elsewhere?

X. Tell me about the letters from the South threatening assassination, in the early days. When did Georgia pass the law offering a reward for your head? Can you send me a copy of that law, or tell me where I can find it? Or, give me, in the language of the law, its chief provisions.

XI. When was it that the Mayor of a Southern city (what city was it?) sent to Mayor Otis to look after you and suppress the Liberator? Can you send me an account of the facts, or tell me where to look for it?

XII. About your first visit to Eng-

land are there not some facts that I ought to weave into the narrative? I should like to see the report you made to the N.E.A.S. Society, but fear I can't find it here.

I am sorry to bother you with this long string of questions, but I need not tell you how important it is that my article should be full and reliable. If Samuel J. May were at home, he would help me in the preparation; but as he is absent, I am constrained to trouble you.

One thing further:

XIII. Tell me what I ought to know of your reception in Boston the Fall after your release from prison; the circumstances attending your

lectures in Julien Hall, &c. Did you not announce your intention to lecture upon the Common on a certain day, if no church or Hall should be offered?

I have had a talk with Ripley, & I believe he wants me to propose a pretty full sketch. But I must have it ready soon, so pray let me hear from you as speedily as possible.

How is your health? I hope you are getting better. If I could see you, I should have much to say about what transpired at the N. E. Convention.

Yours, with ever-growing love,

Oliver Johnson.

C. J. N. Y., June 14, 1859.